

**1902 Victoria House Salvation Army Fair**

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The Salvation Army Industrial & Land Colony,

Hadleigh, Essex.

Horticultural Association.

The Second Annual

Flower show, Industrial Exhibition

Fancy Fair, Horse Parade, & Sports,

will be held in the grounds of Victoria House,

Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1902.

Al fresco cinematograph display and concert at night. Gates open noon.

A continual round of Interest and Amusement all Day. Luncheons, Teas, and Light Refreshments at popular Prices. Admission 6d. Children Half-price.

The Newsman, Saturday, Aug. 9, 1902

Hadleigh Colony Shows.

A "great day" with the S.A.

Mr. Andrew Johnston on "stirring up the devil."

Monday was a great day at the Salvation Army Colony, at Hadleigh, on the occasion of the annual flower show, horse parade, and fancy fair. The programme was a long and varied one, and through the untiring efforts of "Colonel" Lamb, the governor of the Colony, and his numerous assistants, including the honorary secretary of the show, Mr. A. J. Baker, everything passed off most successfully, and afforded considerable pleasure to about two thousand people, many coming from Southend, Rayleigh, and other places in south Essex. The event was held in the extensive grounds of Victoria House.

After luncheon, to which there were about 80 invited guests, the opening ceremony took place from the band stand.

"Colonel" Lamb expressed a hearty welcome to all, and explained that the genesis of that day's show was in the allotments which the men of the Colony had cultivated in odd corners. The Colony supplied the manure and seeds for which a first charge on the produce was made, the balance being kept by the allotment-holders, many of whom had been thereby able to buy a good pair of boots or a winter overcoat. Those allotments had not exactly languished, but they did not keep up their smart appearance, so the Colony officials conceived the idea of fostering the competitive spirit among the men by offering prizes. Thus they had a flower show and some recreation, at which there was pure enjoyment, no swearing, or horseplay, and no drink, and where the management was of a thorough practical business character. Alluding to the great interest taken in the show by the people in the neighbourhood, "Colonel" Lamb said that whatever were the faults of the Salvation Army, they were not a selfish lot of people. [Hear, hear.] They had sounded a note of praise at the commencement of the proceedings, and they would keep it right through, and he hoped that all would feel afterwards that it had been good to be there. [Applause.]

Mr. H. A. Kennedy, M.L.S.B., of Hampstead, in declaring the show open, said that after being first introduced to the Colony by Sir Walter Besant he had made many visits, and the more he had seen of the Colony the more he had enjoyed it and appreciated the idea. Of course he had seen the weak points in the concern, and doubtless "Col" Lamb had got some professional grumblers, who could give their testimony. The "Army," in fact, was very fond of testimony. [Laughter.] The "Army" had plenty of critics among those for whom it was working itself to death. It was the fact and blessing of all good movements to be able to work in spite of the ingratitude and grumbling of those who

were benefiting by it. He should be sorry to leave behind the impression that most of those in the Colony were inclined to grumbling. He believed it was quite the contrary. Even that national characteristic of grumbling, so deeply rooted that nothing seemed able to get it out of the British nation, was being torn up by the roots by the Salvation Army. [Applause.] The “Army” took pleasure in making enjoyment. A valuable characteristic of the Salvation Army was that nothing put it out of countenance, in spite of the men who shouted at it from behind hedges, pelted it with mud and broken gingerbeer bottles, as had been done hundreds of times. The “Army” had fought through all that opposition and he hoped that in the future they would have to encounter a decent amount of persecution and ill-will because without it the “Army” would be quite spoilt. He had pleasure in declaring the show open. [Applause.]

Mr. Andrew Johnston, J.P., C.A., chairman of the Essex County Council, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Kennedy. As one who had taken some part in carrying on public affairs in the county, he was, he said, present that afternoon to bear testimony to the efforts of the Salvation Army in starting that Colony, which had had some wonderful results, any one instance of which would alone have been worth all the trouble, labour, and expense taken. The practical, business spirit of the “Army” in everything had always commanded his admiration. He believed that that spirit had a great deal to do with the change of tone towards the “Army.” Referring to the “Army’s” work, Mr. Johnston said that unless they were stirring the Devil up and making “him” unhappy, they were not doing much good. [Laughter, hear, hear, and a Voice: “I thoroughly agree with you.”] When “he” was quiet it was because “his” enemies were quiet and “he” was not much afraid, but they could depend upon it that their success during the past twenty or so years would not continue unless they really made “him” smart, and feel that “his” kingdom was being attacked and that “he” was being brought to nought. Of course “he” would resent it and stir up evil passions, ridicule and persecution in various ways, but they had put up with a great deal and borne it well, thus showing that they were not afraid of “him” or of man. That show was a reasonable, sensible, and enjoyable way of spending a Bank Holiday. [Applause.]

Mr. A. Stallibrass, vice-chairman of the Rochford Rural Council, seconded the motion, which was carried with applause and “Hallelujahs.”

The large company then dispersed and inspected the agricultural tent. The quality of the exhibits in the flower and vegetable show was most creditable, and in the industrial classes the home-made jams, bread, &c., were excellent. The needlework and mending was carefully done.